

Boulevard Planning Group  
**MINUTES/SUMMARY**  
January 8, 2009  
Boulevard Community Center  
39919 Highway 94/Ribbonwood

**RECEIVED**  
JAN 12 2009  
**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING  
AND LAND USE**

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM. Members present: Cheryl Lenz, Jeffrey McKernan, Donna Tisdale, Bill Parsons, Darlene Koczka and Chris Noland. Members absent: Pat Stuart. The minutes for the December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting were completed late due to technical problems and the holidays. They were tabled until the next meeting to allow proper time to review.

**C ORRESPONDENCE:** The Chair congratulated the newly elected members and distributed the Certificates of Election from the Registrar of Voters to: Cheryl Lenz, Chris Noland, Bill Parsons, and Jeff McKernan.

**A. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** M/S: Lenz/Parsons nominated Donna Tisdale as Chair: 6-0-0. M/S: Tisdale/Koczka nominated Chris Noland as Vice-Chair: 6-0-0. M/S: Tisdale/Noland nominated Cheryl Lenz as Secretary: 6-0-0.

**B. REQUEST FROM LA POSTA TRIBAL EPA FOR FEEDBACK ON THEIR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS/HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:** JaVaughn Miller, Tribal Administrator of the La Posta Band of Mission Indians and Julie Dome, Environmental Administrative Assistant, attended the meeting. Miller distributed a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Survey. The purpose of the survey is to gather community input in identifying the potential disasters that may threaten the La Posta Reservation and its surrounding communities. The survey also gathers other information such as the potential disaster that poses the highest threat and suggested mitigation activities. Results from this survey will be used to assist in the creation of the La Posta Reservation's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is aimed at making the Reservation a more disaster-resistant community. La Posta EPA is working with Craig Williams in Campo and others on regional disaster planning issues.

**C. COUNTY DRAFT GENERAL PLAN:** The Chair displayed the draft General Plan document and reminded everyone that it was the result of many years of work and previous review and comment phases. Tisdale read a short list of proposed comments, and stated that response is due January 31<sup>st</sup>. Everyone was reminded that the document is available on line and hard copies can be purchased. The Chair requested that a member of the Planning Group be assigned to review the comment letter before it goes to the County. Several of the proposed comments dealt with the need to address expected impacts related to industrial wind energy projects on public and private lands: Noise, Public Health & Safety including fire's sparked by turbine malfunctions and dealing with fires at the top of 40-50 story structures, Safety Element (man-made hazards—shedding of blades and tower collapses). Noland stated that he is currently reviewing the groundwater report for the General Plan and said he would like to provide those comments with the letter. The proposed comments and additions were discussed with no objections. **M/S: Parsons/Koczka to adopt the proposal and to send a letter addressing the concerns listed by the Chair with added comments regarding groundwater from Noland. The letter will be reviewed by Noland before distribution. 6-0-0**

**6. OLD BUSINESS – UPDATES – POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS:**

**A. BLM'S RECORD OF DECISION (ROD) DOWNGRADING MCCAIN VALLEY FOR WIND TURBINES AND SUNRISE POWERLINK ROUTE:**

The non-profit group Backcountry Against Dumps is expected to file a lawsuit against BLM in late January. They are also part of the lawsuit filed by multiple groups on December 29<sup>th</sup> with the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit challenging the approval of the National Interest Energy Transmission Corridors and the West-Wide Energy Corridor on Federal lands here. BLM and forrest lands are part of that, as is the Sunrise Powerlink.

**B. SUNRISE POWER LINK CPUC APPROVAL:** On December 18<sup>th</sup> the California Public Utilities Commission voted to approve the southern route. UCAN (Utilities Consumer Action Network) will challenge that approval. The Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity are weighing their funding and legal options. On January 5<sup>th</sup> Governor Swarzenegger sent a letter to President-elect Obama asking for the fast tracking of Sunrise Powerlink approval through the Cleveland National Forrest and the necessary Forrest Plan Amendment.

**C. IBERDROLA RENEWBLES \$400 MILLION TULE WIND PROJECT PROPOSED FOR MCCAIN VALLEY:** Iberdrola expects to initiate the joint NEPA/CEQA review of their industrial wind project in February or March.

**D. SEMPRA 'S BAJA WIND APPLICATION FOR PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT FOR CROSS-BORDER 500KV LINE AT JACUMBA FOR LA RUMOROSA**

**WIND/ENERGIA SIERRA JUAREZ (DOE docket no. PP-334):** The Department of Energy decision is still pending on whether or not to require a full EIS for this cross-border power line project.

**E. SDG&E'S P ROPOSED ECO SUBSTATION AND 14 MILES OF NEW TRANSMISSION LINE REQUIRED FOR NEW WIND GENERATION PROJECTS:**

SDG&E has not yet filed this application with the California Public Utilities Commission. It is expected that SDG&E will purchase and tear down the adjacent home to the existing substation for the expansion.

**F. PROPOSED CAMPO LANDFILL:** The Supplemental EIS for public comment was supposed to be out in January, but has now been pushed back to March.

**G. COUNTY ACTION TO REDUCE RESTRICTIONS ON WIND TESTING (MET)**

**TOWERS (POD 08-015):** The Chair reported attending the December 19<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting that ended with a split vote. The agenda package for that meeting showed that Scott Debenham of Debenham Energy wants to install MET towers on Cleveland National Forrest land near the La Posta Truck Trail and is asking for fast tracking and waivers of restrictions. The County staff is also recommending changing the Wind Turbine regulations in the Zoning Ordinance to remove the current 80 foot height limit and allow for the new much larger industrial turbines which average 500 feet. This item will be heard at the Board of Supervisors meeting of January 28<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that the Planning Group's previous comment letter would be re-submitted with the distribution including all supervisors. Public participation was encouraged.

George Coladonato, an absentee property owner, spoke in support of removing the Major Use Permit requirement for MET towers, stating the need to map the wind resources so homeowners can get loans for residential turbines. He provided one copy of a "San Diego's Changing Climate" report and referred to San Francisco's urban wind mapping. The Chair challenged his statements. Current County regulations allow residential turbines by right, without a Major Use Permit, provided all requirements and setbacks are met. In contradicting arguments, he stated the area had already been mapped by other agencies for wind resources. In response to direct questions, Coladonato refused to identify the location of his property or to fully disclose the nature of the wind energy project he was proposing, and denied having any agreements with Invenergy, Iberdrola, or other wind energy representatives working in the area. Scott Pack, who spoke in support of Coladonato and industrial wind energy, at first declined to give his name, where he was from, or who he represented. Later he stated that he packaged wind energy deals for investors, but admitted he was new to the business. Response from the public and the Group members was not supportive of Coladonato's or Pack's positions on industrial wind energy projects in the area, noting previous problems with Buckeye Wind Farm (closed in the 80's) and the existing Kumeyaay Wind facility in operation on tribal land since 2005. Blades flew over a mile when shed from Buckeye turbines in the 80's and a blade shattered in 2007 on the Kumeyaay turbines, with no response from the tribe on where the massive blade pieces fell. Residents living near Kumeyaay Wind complain of noise, health, visual and other impacts. The Chair noted that renewable energy can, and should, be generated in the urban areas where it is used and by local property owners on a personal, residential scale.

**H. LANSING AND HAMANN COMPANIES:** The Chair reported that John Gibson of Hamann Companies has been very active in promoting industrial wind on their Rough Acres Ranch properties (approx. 2200 acres); including California Energy Commission wind testing equipment on their property east of Lark Canyon OHV park. He has also been helpful in providing easements for Iberdrola's Tule Wind Project and has worked with SDG&E for Sunrise Powerlink easements. It was reported that there is a tentative third-party proposal for a 100-acre solar project for Lansing's 240 acres purchased from John Grizzle. It would sit between I-8 and Old 80 between McCain Valley Road and Calexico Lodge. The Chair also reported that court files show that Lansing had been in escrow with SDG&E for wind turbine projects on over 7,000 acres but the deal fell through.

**I. INVENERGY WIND:** It was reported that Invenergy's Brit Coupens has been gathering political support to allow industrial wind on private properties and to remove the Major Use Permit requirements for MET towers. Public records show agreements with Invenergy and several absentee property owners for industrial scale wind energy. The latest agreement was signed with a Larry Fossett last summer and recorded in December 2008. No Larry Fossett is listed in the Boulevard or the San Diego phone books.

**J. MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PLAN:** The new draft map and handouts were displayed. Focus Conservation Areas (FCA) have been identified by County staff. North East County is the current focus. As the planning process continues, the map may be modified to reflect new information. The next MCSP meeting will be held on January 22nd, from 1-3 PM, at the County Administration Building.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Mi nutes submitted by Cheryl Lenz, Secretary.

Donna Tisdale, Chair  
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